

## BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Page 1, before ~~line 5~~, add the following new subheading:

Page 3, before line 4, add ~~the~~ following new section heading:

Page 6, before line 23, ~~add~~ the following new section heading:

Page 7, before line 5, add the following new section heading:

## IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel now pending claims 1-21 without prejudice or disclaimer and substitute new claims 22-47 therefor as follows:

22. (New) A dialysis machine comprising:

a filter having a blood compartment and a dialysis liquid compartment separated by a semi-permeable membrane;

an extracorporeal blood circuit having an arterial pipe connected to an inlet of the blood compartment and a venous pipe connected to an outlet of the blood compartment;